

SOME NOTES ON CONNECTICUT BIRDS.

BY IRA N. GABRIELSON.

DURING 1916, while in Connecticut engaged in work for the Biological Survey, the writer made a number of notes on the birds of the State. These notes have been compared with the data found in the state list¹ and such as seem to be of interest are presented here.

The notes presented are either records of species which are uncommon in the state or unusual dates for common birds. All specimens mentioned are now in the collection of the Biological Survey, unless otherwise specified.

I am indebted to many friends for courtesies received during the season and particularly to those mentioned in the following notes as companions in the field. I wish especially to express my appreciation of the kindness shown to me by Dr. Louis B. Bishop.

1. **Colymbus holbœlli.** HOLBÆLL'S GREBE.—Wilbur F. Smith and I saw Holbœll's Grebe on April 15 at Norwalk. This bird was feeding a short distance off shore and the markings were plainly visible through the glasses. Mr. Smith informed me that a live bird of this species was captured and brought to him on April 20 just after I had left Norwalk.

2. **Gavia immer.** LOON.—One observed at Norwalk on October 27 by A. A. Saunders and myself. This seems to be an early date.

3. **Larus argentatus.** HERRING GULL.—No summer records are given in the 'Birds of Connecticut.' Several ornithologists informed me that Herring Gulls were becoming more common and occasionally remained during the summer. I have the following dates for the summer months: Norwalk, May 31, a number over the harbor; Old Lyme, June 12, a flock of considerable size about the mouth of the Connecticut River; Norwalk, July 10, a single bird over the harbor. I left the shore on July 14 and did not return again until after the Gulls became common in fall and consequently cannot say whether any were about during late July or early August.

4. **Larus delawarensis.** RING-BILLED GULL.—On April 11 at Greenwich, Wilbur F. Smith and I saw a number of Gulls in immature plumage which I am positive were Ring-billed Gulls. We watched them at close range for a long time. They were distinctly smaller than the Herring Gulls associated with them and the subterminal black band on

¹ The Birds of Connecticut, by J. H. Sage, L. B. Bishop and W. P. Bliss.

the tail was plainly visible. On April 12 I saw them again over Norfolk Harbor. On September 13 one of these birds was collected on the Housatonic River by Mr. Smith. I saw this specimen at the Bird Craft Sanctuary Museum at Fairfield. Since my return to Washington, Mr. Smith has sent me a second specimen taken by a hunter on the Housatonic River, December 11. This bird has been identified by H. C. Oberholser.

5. **Larus atricilla.** LAUGHING GULL.—Ten were noted along the beach near Stonington on August 21, and a single bird over Norwalk Harbor, August 26. Mr. Smith has specimens collected on the Housatonic River, September 13, 1916.

6. **Sterna hirundo.** COMMON TERN.—Six common Terns were seen and one was collected at the mouth of the Connecticut River on June 12. Others were noted at Norwalk on May 31 and August 26.

7. **Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.** BLACK TERN.—A single Black Tern in full spring plumage was seen among the Norwalk Islands on May 24. I watched this bird at short range for some time and later both Mr. Smith and I saw it again. No effort was made to collect the bird as I was at that time unaware of the lack of spring records for the State.

8. **Oceanites oceanicus.** WILSON'S PETREL.—“No specific records of this species” is the statement made regarding the Wilson's Petrel on page 26 of ‘The Birds of Connecticut.’ Since the publication of this work at least two specimens have been taken. Mr. Wilbur F. Smith collected one on August 7, 1914, off Norwalk Harbor. I am informed that this specimen is now in the collection of the Connecticut Commissioners of Fisheries and Game. I accompanied Mr. Smith to the same locality on June 30, 1916, and secured a second specimen.

9. **Oidemia americana.** SCOTER.—On April 17, Mr. Smith and I saw about twenty of this species among the Norwalk Islands feeding with a large flock of White-winged Scoters. The birds were observed at short range and I am positive of the identification.

10. **Branta canadensis canadensis.** CANADA GOOSE.—A flock of about two hundred were seen at Greenwich on April 11. Mr. Smith informed me that the flock wintered at this place. At this time they were very tame and only swam slowly away as we approached.

11. **Ixobrychus exilis.** LEAST BITTERN.—Mr. Smith and I saw one in the marshes at the mouth of the Housatonic River on June 28. Two were seen at South Windsor on July 16 and one on August 1. C. W. Vibert who was with me stated that they had been there for some time.

12. **Porzana carolina.** SORA.—Additional spring records. I flushed one out of a small swamp at South Windsor on May 8. Also flushed a bird at Norwalk on May 24.

Summer records. At South Windsor, July 15 and Glastonbury July 28 birds were seen. In addition the familiar cry of this species was often heard during the evenings in the extensive marshy hay lands about these two places. It is probable that they still breed here.

13. **Tringa canutus.** KNOT.—On May 24 Mr. Smith and I spent

about an hour among the Norwalk Islands looking over a great flock of migrating shorebirds. While we were watching a flock of small Sandpipers a Knot alighted within thirty yards and remained as long as we cared to look at it.

14. **Pisobia fuscicollis.** WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Two were noted in the flock of shorebirds on the Norwalk Islands, May 24.

15. **Bartramia longicauda.** UPLAND PLOVER.—C. W. Vibert, of South Windsor, informed me that a pair of Upland Plover regularly spent the summer on the meadows near his home. He conducted me to the place on May 8 and we saw one bird. On July 15 two were noted in the same locality.

16. **Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.—I saw the Killdeer on the following dates: Norwalk, April 13, May 20, August 24 and 25 and October 27; South Windsor, May 8, July 16, and August 1; Fairfield, October 2. On August 24 four were seen feeding in a pasture near the salt marshes and on August 25 ten at the same spot. The other records were of single birds or pairs.

17. **Arenaria interpres morinella.** RUDDY TURNSTONE.—A number of Turnstones were present in the flock on the Norwalk Islands on May 24. On May 31 one individual was noted feeding along the shore of Norwalk Harbor. This bird was very tame and allowed me to approach within ten yards before it flew.

18. **Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus.** BALD EAGLE.—One noted flying over Fourteen Acre Pond at Norwalk on May 20 and a second seen feeding on dead fish along the edge of the same pond on September 26.

19. **Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.** OSPREY.—Mr. Arthur W. Brockway and I saw two occupied nests at the mouth of the Connecticut River on June 12.

20. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—One taken May 12 at Norwalk.

21. **Empidonax virescens.** ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—A pair of these small flycatchers were observed daily about a little swamp at Norwalk from May 15 to 18. On the 18th one was collected for identification. Others were noted at the same place on May 20.

22. **Otocoris alpestris alpestris.** HORNED LARK.—Early record: one, collected out of a flock of three on October 27 at Norwalk, was too badly shot to make a skin.

23. **Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina.** EVENING GROSBEAK.—On May 3 Lewis W. Ripley of Glastonbury informed me that he had seen a flock of Evening Grosbeaks in a small swamp near East Hartford. I accompanied him to this place on May 4 and found a flock of about fifteen birds three of which were collected. I saw birds of this same flock on May 5 and a single bird in a nearby swamp on May 8.

24. **Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—One collected from a flock of English Sparrows in a barnyard near

Hartford on May 4. This specimen is in the Athenæum collection at Hartford. A single bird was noted at West Hartford, on May 7; and another at Norwalk May 15.

25. *Melospiza lincolni lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.— One taken at South Windsor on May 8.

26. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.— Summer record: two noted by Mr. Brockway and myself at Old Lyme on June 12.

27. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.— Early record: one taken on April 18 at Norwalk out of a flock of Barn and Tree Swallows.

28. *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*. MIGRANT SHRIKE.— I saw one at Norwalk on October 2 and a second at the same place on October 27. (With A. A. Saunders.)

29. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.— Early record: one recorded by A. A. Saunders and myself April 21 at New Haven.

30. *Helmitheros vermivorus*. WORM-EATING WARBLER.— One taken at Norwalk on May 15. Others noted at Norwalk on May 20 and August 25 and one at Hadlyme June 11.

31. *Vermivora peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER.— One individual noted on each of the following dates: Norwalk, May 12, 21 and 26; Wilton, May 20.

32. *Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER.— A. G. Powers and I saw eight Cape May Warblers in Hartford on May 7. I saw four and collected two while tramping with Mr. Vibert at South Windsor on May 8. One noted at Norwalk May 16.

33. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.— Late spring record: May 24 at Norwalk.

34. *Dendroica castanea*. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.— The Bay-breasted Warbler was very common from May 19 to May 21 in Norwalk and vicinity. There were numbers of them again on May 26-27, although they were not so abundant as on the previous dates.

Earliest record for the season, May 8 at South Windsor (with C. W. Vibert).

35. *Dendroica vigorsii*. PINE WARBLER.— Norwalk April 14 and 15; New Haven April 21; South Windsor July 16 (with C. W. Vibert).

36. *Wilsonia citrina*. HOODED WARBLER.— At Wilton on May 27 I saw a number of singing males and collected one. Mr. Godfrey who was with me at the time stated that they bred regularly there. At Hadlyme on June 11 Mr. Arthur W. Brockway took me to see two nests of this species which he had previously found.

37. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADA WARBLER.— On June 10 when I reached Hadlyme, Mr. Brockway informed me that he had taken the nest and eggs of the Canada Warbler the previous day. On June 11 we visited the spot where he had taken the nest and found the pair still about.

38. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.— A Carolina Wren appeared in the yard of St. Paul's Church, at Norwalk, on September 26 and was noted daily until October 7.

39. *Cistothorus stellaris*. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.— One taken at South Windsor May 6. Others were noted at South Windsor on July 15–16 and August 1. C. W. Vibert informed me that this little colony had been there for several years.

40. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— Late record: one female taken at Norwalk, on May 15.

41. *Vermivora lawrencei*. LAWRENCE'S WARBLER.— On May 20 I went on a trip to Wilton with the Norwalk Bird Club. Mr. Smith and Mr. Hall found a Lawrence's Warbler and called the rest of us to see it. The bird was very tame and remained in some low bushes for some time while the entire party gathered about to watch it.

42. *Vermivora leucobronchialis*. BREWSTER'S WARBLER.— One seen in Norwalk in some bushes by the roadside on May 26.

NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

III.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THIS article is a continuation of the author's remarks on various North American birds.¹ In the following pages there are notes on two genera, one species, and two subspecies. For the loan of certain specimens used, the writer is indebted to Dr. L. C. Sanford.

Bannermania Mathews and Iredale.

The genus *Bannermania* has recently been proposed² as a monotypic group for the reception of *Oceanodroma hornbyi* (Gray).³ Examination of recently collected material of this species has offered

¹ For the preceding papers of this series, see 'The Auk,' XXXIV, April, 1917, pp. 191–196; and XXXIV, July, 1917, pp. 321–329.

² Mathews and Iredale, *Ibis*, ser. 10, III, No. 3, July, 1915, p. 57S.

³ *Thalassidroma Hornbyi* Gray, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1853 (July 25, 1854), p. 62 (north-west coast of America).